

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 DRC-01 /079 W

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O 031152Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8933

INFO AMCONSUL TRIESTE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSHOUTH IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1530

DIA FOR AA-4 AND DI-5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IT, YO, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV MEDIA ON DARK IMAGE 74

REF: BELGRADE 1494, 1495, STATE 64938 (NOTAL)

1. YUGOSLAV MEDIA BEGINNING EVENING APRIL 2 GIVING
HEAVY, ADVERSE COVERAGE DARK IMAGE 74 AND TRIESTE
PORT CALL, ALLEGING EXERCISE AND PORT CALL DESIGNED
SUPPORT ITALIAN POSITION ZONE B DISPUTE AND EXERT
PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVIA. ROUNDUP OF PRESS COMMENTARY
FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. DUSKO DODER, BELGRADE CORRESPONDENT WASHINGTON POST,
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APPROACHED AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS EVENING

APRIL 2 STATING HE INFORMED BY YUGOSLAV SOURCE (FORMER POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT MOSCOW NOW WITH NIN) THAT FSFA ASST SEC DIZDAREVIC CALLED AMBASSADOR IN ON NATO DARK IMAGE. DODER SAID HE PLANNED FILE STORY AND ASKED QUESTION RE TIMING EXERCISE PLANNING AND NOTIFICATIONS YUGOSLAVS.

3. EMBASSY REPLIED TO QUESTIONS STATING EXERCISE AND ZONE B CRISIS UNRELATED, PLANNING FOR EXERCISE BEGAN AS EARLY AS LAST JUNE, SIXTH FLEET PARTICIPATION SMALL, AND YUGOSLAVS INFORMED BY ITALIANS IN ROME AND BELGRADE BEFORE CURRENT CRISIS OVER ZONE B HEATED UP.

4. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT ROY GUTMAN ALSO CONTACTED EMBASSY OFFICERS AND WAS BACKGROUNDED IN SAME VEIN AS DODER.

5. WE WOULD HOPE DEPT SPOKESMAN COULD MAKE STATEMENT AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ALONG LINES EXCELLENT GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE 64938. OUR GOING ON PUBLIC RECORD REITERATING POSITION IN RELEASE OF OCT 5, 1954, WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL AT PRESENT POINT IN DEALING WITH YUGOSLAVS.

6. IN VIEW HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE HERE WHICH INCLUDES INACCURACIES, EMBASSY PLANS ISSUE PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING REF GUIDANCE WHICH WILL IN ADDITION BE SENT INDIVIDUAL PUBLICATIONS UNDER COVER LETTER POINTING OUT INACCURACIES AND DISTORTIONS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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